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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/407,768	09/29/1999	TERUYUKI MARUYAMA	0557-4782-2	3179

22850 7590 10/24/2003

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EXAMINER

ABEL JALIL, NEVEEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

17

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/407,768

Applicant(s)

MARUYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Neveen Abel-Jalil

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/29/1999
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3, 4, 5
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-3, 5, 14-15, 18-19, 20-21, 23- 26, and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shiota et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,337,712).

As to claim 1, Shiota et al teaches a filing system in which at least one data processing apparatus is connected to a file server via a transmission path, comprising:

a data capturing unit which captures image data of a document into the data processing apparatus;

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a data storing unit which stores the image data captured by the data capturing unit, onto an image storage medium (see column 8, lines 1-6, where “data capturing unit” is read on “digital camera”, “data storing unit” is read on “image server”);

an authorized user identifying unit which acquires one or a plurality of owner identifications when the image data is captured by the data capturing unit (see column 10, lines 44-45, where “owner identifications” is read on “identification code”);

an access management unit which correlates the owner identifications with the image data stored by the data storing unit, and allows the stored image data to be accessed when any of the owner identifications correlated with the image data is verified (see column 10, lines 56-58);

and

a data output unit which outputs the image data in a readable manner by retrieving the stored image data of the image storage medium when the access to the image data is allowed by the access management unit (see column 10, lines 66-67; and see column 11, lines 3-4).

As to claim 2, Shiota et al. teaches wherein the authorized user identifying unit acquires one or a plurality of operator identifications when the image data is captured by the data capturing unit, and wherein the access management unit (see column 2, lines 33-40, where “access management unit” is read on “accessing means”) correlates the operator identifications with the image data stored by the data storing unit, and allows the stored image data to be accessed when one of the operator identifications correlated with the image data is verified (see column 10, lines 1-8, where “operator identifications” is read on “identification code”).

As to claim 3, Shiota et al. teaches comprising a public mode identifying unit which acquires a public-mode identification when the image data is captured by the data capturing unit, and wherein the access management unit correlates the public-mode identification with the image data stored by the data storing unit (See column 3, lines 53-67), and allows the stored image data to be accessed by all authorized users when the public-mode identification correlated with the image data is acquired (See claim 17 language, also see claims 31-37 language).

As to claim 5, Shiota et al. teaches comprising an initialize command detecting unit which detects an initialize command, and an initialization unit which initializes the acquired owner identifications into initial values when the initialize command is detected (See column 3, lines 10-28).

As to claim 14, Shiota et al. teaches wherein the authorized user identifying unit acquires a standard user identification as one of a plurality of operator identifications when the image data is captured by the data capturing unit but any of the owner identifications are not acquired, and wherein the access management unit (See column 2, lines 33-40, where "access management unit" is read on "accessing means") correlates the standard user identification with the image data stored by the data storing unit, and allows the stored image data to be accessed when the standard user identification correlated with the image data is verified (See column 10, lines 1-8, wherein "operator identifications" is read on "identification code").

As to claim 15, Shiota et al. teaches wherein the authorized user identifying unit acquires a standard user identification as one of a plurality of operator identifications when the image data is captured by the data capturing unit using a facsimile receiving function and any of the owner identifications are not acquired (See column 6, lines 54-64, also see column 7, lines 44-58), and wherein the access management unit correlates the standard user identification with the image data stored by the data storing unit, and allows the stored image data to be accessed when the standard user identification correlated with the image data is verified (See column 6, lines 1-29).

As to claim 18, Shiota et al. teaches the filing system according to claim 1, wherein the data storing unit includes a first storage device of the data processing apparatus and a second storage device of the file server (see column 2, lines 33-40, where “first storage device” is read on “removable medium” and “second storage device” is read on “image server”), and wherein the data processing apparatus includes a communication control unit which transmits the image data, stored in the first storage device, to the second storage device via the transmission path (see column 2, lines 64-67; column 3, lines 1-9, where “data processing apparatus” is read on “the data transferring means”).

As to claim 19, Shiota et al. teaches a data processing method for use in a data processing apparatus of a filing system, comprising the steps of:

capturing image data of a document into the data processing apparatus;

storing the captured image data onto an image storage medium (see column 2, lines 33-40, where “capturing image data” is read on “image data: recorded by a digital camera”);

acquiring one or a plurality of owner identifications when the image data is captured into the data processing apparatus (see column 10, lines 44-48, where "owner identifications" is read on "identification code");

correlating the owner identifications with the image data stored on the image storage medium; allowing the stored image data to be accessed when any of the owner identifications correlated with the image data is verified (see column 10, lines 44-55) ; and outputting the image data in a readable manner by retrieving the stored image data of the image storage medium when the access to the image data is allowed (see column 10, lines 66-67; and see column 11, lines 2-4, where "outputting the image data in a readable manner" is read on "output device includes a printer").

As to claim 20, Shiota et al teaches wherein, in the acquiring step, one or a plurality of operator identifications are acquired when the image data is captured, and, in the correlating step, the operator identifications are correlated with the stored image data, and, in the allowing step, the stored image data is allowed to be accessed when one of the operator identifications correlated with the image data is verified (See column 7, lines 33-52, also see claim 17 language).

As to claim 21, Shiota et al teaches comprising the step of acquiring a public-mode identification when the image data is captured, and wherein, in the correlating step, the public-mode identification is correlated with the image data stored by the data storing unit, and, in the allowing step, the stored image data is allowed to be accessed by all authorized users when

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the public-mode identification correlated with the image data is acquired (See column 7, lines 34-57).

As to claim 23, Shiota et al teaches comprising the steps of: detecting an initialize command; and initializing the acquired owner identifications into initial values when the initialize command is detected (See column 4, lines 31-54).

As to claim 24, Shiota et al teaches comprising the steps of:
displaying a list of user selection buttons corresponding to a plurality of authorized user identifications; and determining whether any inputs are given onto the displayed user selection buttons (See column 5, lines 62-67, and see column 6, lines 1-30).

As to claim 25, further comprising the step of acquiring a standard user identification as one of a plurality of operator identifications when the image data is captured but any of the owner identifications are not acquired, and wherein, in the correlating step, the standard user identification is correlated with the stored image data, and, in the allowing step, the stored image data is allowed to be accessed when the standard user identification correlated with the image data is verified (See column 5, lines 20-60).

As to claim 26, further comprising the step of acquiring a standard user identification as one of a plurality of operator identifications when the image data is captured using a facsimile receiving function and any of the owner identifications are not acquired, and wherein, in the

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correlating step, the standard user identification is correlated with the stored image data, and, in the allowing step, the stored image data is allowed to be accessed when the standard user identification correlated with the image data is verified (See column 5, lines 62-67, and column 6, lines 1-30).

As to claim 29, Shiota et al teaches further comprising the step of transmitting the image data, stored on the image storage medium, to a storage device of the file server via the transmission path (see column 9, lines 10-15).

As to claim 30, a computer readable medium storing program code for causing a processor to execute a data acquisition processing on a data processing apparatus, the computer readable medium (See column 1, lines 53-67) comprising:

first program code means for causing the processor to capture image data of a document into the data processing apparatus;

second program code means for causing the processor to store the captured image data onto an image storage medium of the data processing apparatus (see column 8, lines 1-6, where “data capturing unit” is read on “digital camera”, “data storing unit” is read on “image server”);

third program code means for causing the processor to acquire one or a plurality of owner identifications when the image data is captured (see column 10, lines 44-45, where “owner identifications” is read on “identification code”);

fourth program code means for causing the processor to correlate the owner identifications with the image data stored on the image storage medium, and for causing the

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processor to allow the stored image data to be accessed when any of the owner identifications correlated with the image data is verified (see column 10, lines 56-58); and

fifth program code means for causing the processor to output the image data in a readable manner by retrieving the stored image data of the image storage medium when the access to the image data is allowed (see column 10, lines 66-67; and see column 11, lines 3-4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4, 6-9, 11-13, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiota et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,337,712) in view of Honda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,451 B2).

As to claim 4, Shiota et al. does not teach comprising a capture inhibition identifying unit which acquires a capture-inhibition identification before the image data is captured by the data capturing unit, and wherein, when the capture-inhibition identification is acquired, the capturing of the image data by the data capturing unit is inhibited.

Honda et al. teaches comprising a capture inhibition identifying unit which acquires a capture-inhibition identification before the image data is captured by the data capturing unit, and

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wherein, when the capture-inhibition identification is acquired, the capturing of the image data by the data capturing unit is inhibited (see column 9, lines 51-55, where “capture-inhibition identification” is read on “ON/OFF” button”).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. to include comprising a capture inhibition identifying unit which acquires a capture-inhibition identification before the image data is captured by the data capturing unit, and wherein, when the capture-inhibition identification is acquired, the capturing of the image data by the data capturing unit is inhibited.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. by the teaching of Honda et al. to include comprising a capture inhibition identifying unit which acquires a capture-inhibition identification before the image data is captured by the data capturing unit, and wherein, when the capture inhibition identification is acquired, the capturing of the image data by the data capturing unit is inhibited because it provides for secure and proper capturing of image.

As to claim 6, Shiota et al. does not teach wherein the initialize command detecting unit includes a clock which measures an elapsed time from a start of operation of the data processing apparatus, and the initialize command is transmitted to the initialize command detecting unit when the elapsed time measured by the clock exceeds a predetermined reference period.

Honda et al. teaches wherein the initialize command detecting unit includes a clock which measures an elapsed time from a start of operation of the data processing apparatus, and the initialize command is transmitted to the initialize command detecting unit when the elapsed

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time measured by the clock exceeds a predetermined reference period (See column 27, lines 1-32).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. to include wherein the initialize command detecting unit includes a clock which measures an elapsed time from a start of operation of the data processing apparatus, and the initialize command is transmitted to the initialize command detecting unit when the elapsed time measured by the clock exceeds a predetermined reference period.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. by the teaching of Honda et al. to include wherein the initialize command detecting unit includes a clock which measures an elapsed time from a start of operation of the data processing apparatus, and the initialize command is transmitted to the initialize command detecting unit when the elapsed time measured by the clock exceeds a predetermined reference period because management of time allows for efficient matching and accurate retrieval of stored image data.

As to claim 7, Shiota et al. does not teach wherein the initialize command-detecting unit further detects the initialize command when an entire data processing on the data processing apparatus is terminated, and the initialization unit initializes the acquired owner identifications when the initialize command is detected.

Honda et al. teaches wherein the initialize command-detecting unit further detects the initialize command when an entire data processing on the data processing apparatus is

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terminated, and the initialization unit initializes the acquired owner identifications when the initialize command is detected (See column 23, lines 26-33, also see column 24, lines 56-63).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. to include wherein the initialize command-detecting unit further detects the initialize command when an entire data processing on the data processing apparatus is terminated, and the initialization unit initializes the acquired owner identifications when the initialize command is detected.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. by the teaching of Honda et al. to include wherein the initialize command-detecting unit further detects the initialize command when an entire data processing on the data processing apparatus is terminated, and the initialization unit initializes the acquired owner identifications when the initialize command is detected because it provide for secure access to stored image data.

As to claim 8, Shiota et al. does not teach wherein the authorized user identifying unit includes:

a list displaying unit which displays a list of user selection buttons corresponding to a plurality of authorized user identifications; and an input detecting unit which determines whether any inputs are given onto the user selection buttons displayed by the list displaying unit.

Honda et al. teaches wherein the authorized user identifying unit includes:

a list displaying unit which displays a list of user selection buttons corresponding to a plurality of authorized user identifications; and an input detecting unit which determines whether

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any inputs are given onto the user selection buttons displayed by the list displaying unit (See column 17, lines 13-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. to include wherein the authorized user identifying unit includes: a list displaying unit which displays a list of user selection buttons corresponding to a plurality of authorized user identifications; and an input detecting unit which determines whether any inputs are given onto the user selection buttons displayed by the list displaying unit.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. by the teaching of Honda et al. to include wherein the authorized user identifying unit includes: a list displaying unit which displays a list of user selection buttons corresponding to a plurality of authorized user identifications; and an input detecting unit which determines whether any inputs are given onto the user selection buttons displayed by the list displaying unit because accessing selections but user allows for customized access with mode setting suitable for user preferences.

As to claim 9, Shiota et al. as modified teaches wherein the list displaying unit displays the list of the user selection buttons in a sequence of the authorized user identifications being defined in a user information file (See column 7, lines 1-22).

As to claim 11, Shiota et al. as modified teaches wherein the authorized user identifying unit further includes an input history recording unit which records a latest user selection count

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for each of the inputs to the user selection button, and the list displaying unit displays a set of frequent-selection user buttons based on the latest user selection counts thereof (See Honda et al. column 28, lines 16-43).

As to claim 12, Shiota et al. as modified teaches when any inputs to the user selection buttons are first given, the authorized user identifying unit acquires ones of a plurality of operator identifications corresponding to the input user selection buttons, and when any inputs to the user selection buttons are subsequently given, the authorized user identifying unit acquires ones of the plurality of owner identifications corresponding to the input user selection buttons (See Honda et al. column 17, lines 13-30).

As to claim 13, Shiota et al. as modified teaches wherein the data processing apparatus has a copying function, a facsimile function and a scanning function, the data capturing unit capturing the image data by using one of the copying, facsimile and scanning functions (See column 6, lines 54-64, also see column 7, lines 44-58), and the list of the user selection buttons corresponding to the frequent-selection owner identifications and a list of function selection buttons corresponding to the copying, facsimile and scanning functions are displayed together on a user/function select page (See column 6, lines 39-64).

As to claim 22, Shiota et al. does not teach comprising the step of acquiring a capture-inhibition identification before the image data is captured, and wherein, when the

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capture-inhibition identification is acquired, the capturing of the image data in the capturing step is inhibited.

Honda et al teaches comprising the step of acquiring a capture-inhibition identification before the image data is captured, and wherein, when the capture-inhibition identification is acquired, the capturing of the image data in the capturing step is inhibited (see column 9, lines 51-55, where "capture-inhibition identification" is read on "ON/OFF" button").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. to include comprising the step of acquiring a capture-inhibition identification before the image data is captured, and wherein, when the capture-inhibition identification is acquired, the capturing of the image data in the capturing step is inhibited.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. by the teaching of Honda et al. to include comprising the step of acquiring a capture-inhibition identification before the image data is captured, and wherein, when the capture-inhibition identification is acquired, the capturing of the image data in the capturing step is inhibited because it provides for secure and proper capturing of image.

5. Claims 16-17, and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,337,712 B1) in view of Lewis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,469).

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As to claim 16, Shiota et al. teaches wherein the access management unit includes a standard user identification setting unit which acquires a standard user identification, the standard user identification being predetermined on a display device of a client data processing apparatus (See column 6, lines 1-37).

Shiota et al. does not teach transmitted to the access management unit by using a Web server function.

Lewis et al. teaches transmitted to the access management unit by using a Web server function (See column 13, lines 10-29).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. to include transmitted to the access management unit by using a Web server function.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. by the teaching of Honda et al. to include transmitted to the access management unit by using a Web server function because web access display methods are well known in the art and allow for connectivity among dispersed geographic locations.

As to claim 17, Shiota et al. does not teach comprising a monitoring/displaying unit which monitors an amount of available storage of the image storage medium and displays the amount of the available storage, wherein, when the amount of the available storage of the image storage medium is below a lower limit, a warning message indicating a lack of the available storage is displayed.

Lewis et al teaches comprising a monitoring/displaying unit which monitors an amount of available storage of the image storage medium and displays the amount of the available storage, wherein, when the amount of the available storage of the image storage medium is below a lower limit, a warning message indicating a lack of the available storage is displayed (see column 12, lines 64-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. to include comprising a monitoring/displaying unit which monitors an amount of available storage of the image storage medium and displays the amount of the available storage, wherein, when the amount of the available storage of the image storage medium is below a lower limit, a warning message indicating a lack of the available storage is displayed.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. by the teaching of Honda et al. to include comprising a monitoring/displaying unit which monitors an amount of available storage of the image storage medium and displays the amount of the available storage, wherein, when the amount of the available storage of the image storage medium is below a lower limit, a warning message indicating a lack of the available storage is displayed because displaying a warning message showing storage threshold allows for better storage management and data allocation.

As to claim 27, Shiota et al. teaches wherein the standard user identification is predetermined on a display device of a client data processing apparatus in the filing system (See column 3, lines 17-55).

Shiota et al. does not teach transmitted to the image storage medium of the data processing apparatus by using a Web server function.

Lewis et al teaches transmitted to the image storage medium of the data processing apparatus by using a Web server function (See column 13, lines 10-29).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. to include transmitted to the image storage medium of the data processing apparatus by using a Web server function.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. by the teaching of Honda et al. to include transmitted to the image storage medium of the data processing apparatus by using a Web server function because web access display methods are well known in the art and allow for connectivity among dispersed geographic locations.

As to claim 28, Shiota et al. does not teach comprising the steps of:
monitoring an amount of available storage of the image storage medium; and displaying the amount of the available storage, and wherein, when the amount of the available storage of the image storage medium is below a lower limit, a warning message indicating a lack of the available storage is displayed.

Lewis et al teaches comprising the steps of:
monitoring an amount of available storage of the image storage medium; and displaying the amount of the available storage, and wherein, when the amount of the available storage of the image storage medium is below a lower limit, a warning message indicating a lack of the

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available storage is displayed (see column 12, lines 64-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. to include comprising the steps of: monitoring an amount of available storage of the image storage medium; and displaying the amount of the available storage, and wherein, when the amount of the available storage of the image storage medium is below a lower limit, a warning message indicating a lack of the available storage is displayed.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Shiota et al. by the teaching of Honda et al. to include comprising the steps of: monitoring an amount of available storage of the image storage medium; and displaying the amount of the available storage, and wherein, when the amount of the available storage of the image storage medium is below a lower limit, a warning message indicating a lack of the available storage is displayed because displaying a warning message showing storage threshold allows for better storage management and data allocation.

6. Claims 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,337,712 B1) in view of Honda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,451 B2) as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Lewis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,469).

As to claim 10, Shiota et al. as modified still does not teach wherein, each time:

the inputs to the user selection buttons are given, a display color of each of the input user selection buttons is changed to a separate color that is indicative of the authorized user identification selection.

Lewis et al. teaches wherein, each time:

the inputs to the user selection buttons are given, a display color of each of the input user selection buttons is changed to a separate color that is indicative of the authorized user identification selection (See column 11, lines 1-31, also see abstract).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Shiota et al. as modified to include wherein, each time: the inputs to the user selection buttons are given, a display color of each of the input user selection buttons is changed to a separate color that is indicative of the authorized user identification selection.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have further modified Shiota et al. as modified by the teaching of Honda et al. to include wherein, each time: the inputs to the user selection buttons are given, a display color of each of the input user selection buttons is changed to a separate color that is indicative of the authorized user identification selection because changing the display color allows for easier monitoring and access of operator buttons by user.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Trader et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,819,250) teaches method for multimedia interaction with a database.

Oya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,208,379 B1) teaches camera control system.

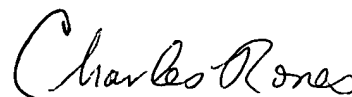
Okazaki et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0045983 A1) teaches remote control access method for information input apparatus.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 703-305-8114. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 703-305-3830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Neveen Abel-Jalil
September 22, 2003



CHARLES RONES
PRIMARY EXAMINER